

SENSATION INSIDE THE GREAT PYRAMID

The discovery of the secret chamber inside the Great Pyramid of Egypt was not going to be made public.

by Erich von Daniken

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The videotape playing in front of me is well worth 5 million dollars. It shows the greatest sensation in the last 1200 years! In 821 AD, Kalif Abdullah al-Ma'mun, son of the famous Harun al-Raschid, sent a raiding party to the Great Pyramid of the Pharaoh Cheops at Giza near Cairo, Egypt. After an incredible amount of effort and pain, the men hacked a passage into the thousands of years old stone structure. It is the same passage which tourists today use to enter the pyramid.

During the last 100 years, Egyptologists have thoroughly explored the inside of the Great Pyramid. Were there still secrets? Still hidden channels and passageways and obstructed chambers, as claimed by old Egyptian records? "No," the experts stated. "No more dreaming."

But now the German engineer, Rudolf Gantenbrink (born 1950), succeeded in a stroke of genius. Gantenbrink constructed a sophisticated robot, a small caterpillar-like vehicle, with a lot of electronics, laser beams and a built-in miniature video camera. Technical support for the project was supplied to Gantenbrink by the Swiss firm ESCAP in Geneva (speciality motors), HILIT AB in Vaduz, Liechtenstein (drilling techniques), and by the GORE Company in Munich, Germany (speciality cables). Gantenbrink's remote-controlled robot moved like a voracious miniature monster through one of the narrow passages leading from the Queen's Chamber towards the top of the structure. The beam from the headlight at the bow of the robot illuminated scenes which no humans have seen for at least 4,500 years. Cheops, the supposed builder of the pyramid, ruled from 2551 to 2528 BC.

Metre by metre the technical miracle worked its way past smoothly polished walls, overcoming small accumulations of sand and natural stone, and then, after the incredible distance of 65 inclined metres from the Queen's Chamber, there was a sensational find—a broken-off piece of metal was lying on the floor! Never before has metal been found inside the Great Pyramid. Shortly thereafter, the robot's camera caught some kind of sliding door which had obviously led into the shaft from above. In the middle of this door were two metal braces, one of them partially broken off. Gantenbrink steered the robot towards the door and aimed the laser beam at the lower edge. The beam disappeared under the door. This was proof that the sliding door was not firmly resting on the floor. The path of the robot, however, was now blocked.

Until now the Egyptologists have assumed that the quadratic tunnel, with sides measuring only 20 cm, had to be an air shaft. That illusion is gone. One of the puzzles of history, hidden at least 4,500 years ago, is behind that mysterious, closed metal-plated door.

In 1987 a highly qualified team from Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, X-rayed the Great Pyramid with electronic equipment.¹ As a result, the Japanese succeeded in locating a whole maze of heretofore unknown corridors and chambers. The Egyptologists did not take the Japanese readings seriously, but now with Gantenbrink's precise video recordings, their position will have to change. Although Rudolf Gantenbrink succeeded in making a sensational discovery, he is not seeking publicity. His concern remains in preserving antiquities. He would like to lend new impulses to archaeology and wants to make archaeological research once again attractive.

However, the outright hypocritical behaviour of the Egyptologists in this matter gives me a lot to think about. The mysterious door was discovered on 22 March 1993, exactly at 11.05 am. It was a perfect day for discovery, and experts of the German Archaeological Society in Cairo as well as the Egyptian Administration of Antiquities, were aware of it! However, silence prevailed. The public was not informed. They wanted to keep this finding among themselves, and the public would not have learned anything even to this day if Rudolf Gantenbrink had not been there. He showed a copy of the phenomenal video to some experts. The British press got wind of it and on 7 April, two weeks after the discovery, the first small announcement was published.² What was the

reaction of the German Archaeological Institute, which after all had a part in the discovery and knew the truth? The Institute in Cairo denied the announcement. "This is complete rubbish," the speaker for the Institute, Christel Egorov, told the Reuters news agency.³ Further, "The tunnels found were merely air shafts and the minirobot had only been used to measure humidity. It was known that the Great Pyramid did not contain any other chambers."⁴

You not only think someone is pulling your leg, you know they are pulling your leg! The robot, during its march through the pyramid's tunnel, did not have any humidity gauges on board at all! But it becomes even more ludicrous. Prof. Dr Rainer Stadelmann, the great master of German Egyptology and Director of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) in Cairo, outright denied the possibility of a secret chamber. In front of journalists he explained, "It is generally known that every treasure in the pyramid has long been plundered. There is no chamber behind the door."⁴

Stadelmann's colleague, Dr Gunter Dreyer, confirmed the views of his boss, "There is nothing behind the door. It is all imagination."⁵ Certainly the experts would be correct if they stated that no one knew what was behind the metal-plated door. However, to vehemently claim that nothing was behind it is not only dogmatic and unscientific but, citing the word of the DAI itself, "rubbish"! Mr David Keys, correspondent for archaeology, noticed something curious.⁶ The distance in height from the floor of the Queen's Chamber to the floor of the King's Chamber above it is 21.5 metres, exactly the same distance that lies between the floor of the King's Chamber and the assumed new chamber. For a better understanding: the robot started its adventure on the south wall of the Queen's Chamber, then it rattled first 2 metres horizontally before starting its laborious climb at an angle of 45 degrees. After about 40 metres it crossed a plate. It could be a floor plate or it could have fallen from the ceiling. Passages with sand and rough walls followed, which looked like coarse plasterwork. Finally, after about 65 metres, finely polished sides of sandstone or alabaster were found, and beyond that, the mysterious door. If the shaft would continue, it would reach the outer wall of the pyramid after another 25 metres.

A small piece is missing in the lower right-hand corner of the door, and there some dark sand was found. British experts think that this could indicate organic material, like bones or linen.⁷ We still do not know what is hidden behind the door. Anything is possible. I would like to refer to the Arabic manuscripts cited in my book, *The Eyes of the Sphinx*, at pages 254-2738. In the 14th century, old Arabic and Coptic manuscripts were lying around Cairo's libraries, which the geographer and historian, Takiad-Din Ahmad ben 'Ali ben 'Abel al-Kadir ben Muhammad al-Makrizi (1364-1442) had compiled into his work *Hitat*. In *Hitat* one can read things which strike us like fairy tales from the 'one thousand and one nights'. For example:

"Then the builder had put thir-

ty treasure chambers of coloured granite into the western pyramid; they were filled with rich treasures, with instruments and picture columns of precious stones with equipment of fine iron, like weapons which do not rust, glass you can fold without breaking,

with strange charms, various kinds of simple and mixed medicines and with deadly poisons."⁹

And who should be responsible for the building of the pyramids according to the Arabian records? In *Hitat* it is reported, "The first Hermes was called 'Trinity' because of his functions as prophet, king and wise man. It is he, called Henoah by the Hebrews, son of Jared, son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, son of Enos,

son of Seth, the son of Adam and he is Idris. He read in the stars that the flood would come. In order to protect his belongings, he had the pyramids built and hid treasures in them, learned writings and everything else he was concerned about that could get lost and disappear."

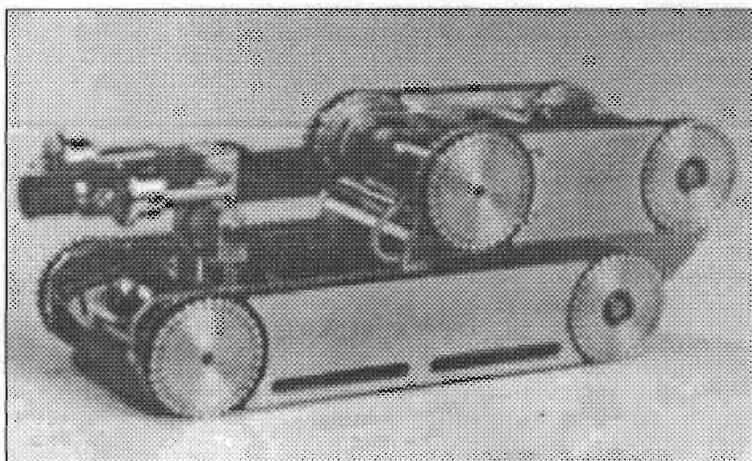
The record that the Old Testament prophet Henoah (Enoch) might be the same person as, on the one hand, the son of the god Hermes, and on the other hand the progenitor of the Arabs, Idris, is very exciting. It could hardly be pure fantasy, otherwise Henoah would not have been listed with all the names of his ancestors. In addition, Henoah (alias Idris, alias Hermes) is not named as having built the Great Pyramid in *Hitat* alone. The Arabian explorer and writer Ibu Battuta (14th century) is assuring us of the same:

"Henoah erected the pyramid before the flood, in order to preserve in it books of science and knowledge, as well as other valuable items."

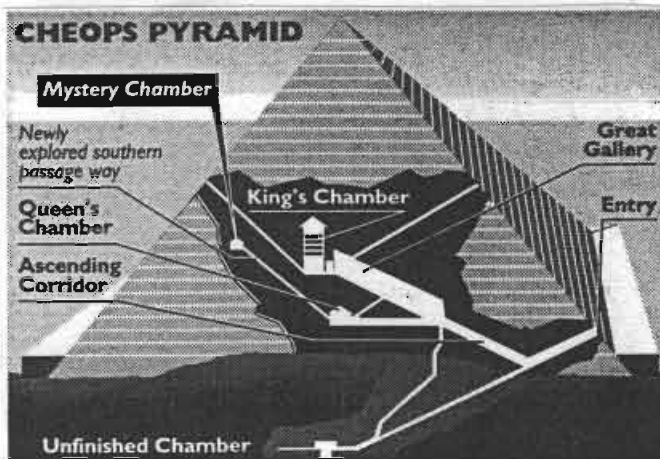
Exactly on target, however, is Muhammad ben Abdallah ben Abel al-Hakam, a 12th century scholar, who wrote:

"In my opinion, the pyramids could only have been built before the flood, because had they been built after it, mankind would be informed about them."

An excellent argument. Not refutable. But of course, we do not know how much of the Arabian historians' and writers' descriptions were fabrications, and whether they had anything to do with the door which has just been discovered. However, one thing is certain: the 65-metre-long tunnel travelled by the robot had to be part of the planning for the pyramid from the very beginning. There was no other way, because no one, not even a child, could have chiselled a shaft of 20 cm in width and height out of the stone of the pyramid after it was built—not to speak of the highly polished walls. The shaft grew with the pyramid and was a fixed part of its design.



A view of the Gantenbrink Pyramid Robot. Photo: Rudolf Gantenbrink, Munich, Germany



However, the experts claim that there is no chamber and if there should be one, it contains nothing since "robbers have long ago cleaned out all the chambers".⁶

The rubbish fed to the public by the experts is hard to believe. Perhaps one of them can explain to us how the robbers managed to crawl into a shaft 20 centimetres wide. Just measure 20 cm on your ruler! The grave robbers must have had intelligent snakes that could crawl up the 65-metre-long tunnel! And finally, at their goal, the alleged grave robbers either did not even open the door, or if they did, they politely closed it again.

We do not know of any other access to the clearly seen door and, if there is one, the matter would be even more embarrassing for the Egyptologists. This, you see, would mean that there are more tunnels. Then there is the variant that the grave robbers prepared an access for themselves from the outside. This again would mean that an accessible tunnel would have to have been hacked through, but as everyone knows, the south wall of the pyramid has been intact for thousands of years.

The more I think about the success of the modest, unassuming, clean-cut, hard-working Mr Gantenbrink who designed the robot, the more angered I become about the behaviour of the experts. Once again there is a mystery lingering. Once again the public is excluded. The idea that the pyramid does not contain anything but the known passages and rooms, originates from the same experts. There is a lack of courage to admit that they were wrong. There is also a lack of will to make archaeological discoveries known to the public. The Great Pyramid is not the property of some archaeologists. It and all other constructions of early history belong to all of mankind which has a right to rapid, extensive and honest information. Don't my friends from Egyptology realise that they become less credible with each game of hide-and-seek they play? That people won't believe them any more, even if the chamber proves to be empty? I would like to be present when that mysteri-

ous door in the 65 metre shaft is opened, or when an endoscope is slipped through the small opening at the lower right-hand rim of the door. How else can I believe the reports of the Egyptologists otherwise?

Mr von Daniken's first book, *Chariots of the Gods?*, published in 1968, was an immediate best seller. Since then he has written 20 other books in the ancient astronaut field, all of which have been best sellers, but his latest books have not been translated into English. His books have sold almost 57 million copies throughout the world. Mr von Daniken is enjoying a resurgence of popularity as a result of his highly successful, year-long TV series currently being shown in Europe. He continues to set a fast pace with his travelling, lecturing and writing, producing a new book each year. He operates the Ancient Astronaut Society's office in Switzerland and oversees publication of the German edition of *Ancient Skies*. His address is Baselstrasse 1, 4532 Feldbrunnen/SO, Switzerland.

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